NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Site Mitigation, Office of Military Facilities
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

Subject: ☒ DRAFT ☐ FINAL ☐ MITIGATED

Project Title: Mojave Gunnery Range "C" Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study/Removal Action Work Plan (RI/FS/RAW)

State Clearinghouse No.:

Project Location: Between Mojave and California City - The Mojave Gunnery Range C (MGRC) is located approximately 4-miles east of Mojave, California and encompasses the southwest corner of California City. The MGRC comprises approximately 21,750 acres.

County: Kern

Project Description: The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is considering approval of a RI/FS/RA Work Plan for the Former Mojave Gunnery Range "C" proposed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (U.S. ACE). The RI/FS/RA would investigate the Munitions Response Areas (MRA) with a comprehensive sampling methodology consisting of visual, geophysical, and intrusive investigations to characterize where Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) activities occurred and define Munitions Response Sites (MRS) within MRA.

Project Activities include the following:

Project Activities: The RI/FS/RAW approach consists of the use of surface visual surveys (SVS) combined with subsurface digital geophysical mapping (DGM) to characterize the site. MARRS Services Inc. (MARRS) proposes a dynamic approach to the MGRC RI/FS/RA based on the recommended minimum DGM sampling with a Right-of-Entry (ROE) driven distribution to accomplish the investigation. Within this approach, the following major activities will be used to characterize this site:

• Development of a RI/FS/RA Work Plan using information gained during review of archive data, site visit, Geophysical Prove-out and input/information resulting from the MGRC Technical Project Planning (TPP) meetings in accordance with project Right of Entries (ROEs).

• Perform a surface visual survey/geophysical investigation of munition response areas, Archive Search Report-defined targets and associated buffer areas to evaluate the extent of MEC/MD concentration and allow characterization within the RI/FS/RAW. Project activities will also include the following:

- In Investigation, by excavation with hand tools of a number of individually identified subsurface MEC/anomalies;
- Treatment of collected items, which may include MEC open detonation or within a pit; and
- Transportation of equipment.

Geophysical surveys will be performed on noncontiguous roughly parallel transects to collect subsurface data across all MRA areas. Transect paths have been selected to facilitate avoidance of sensitive natural and cultural resources as well as avoidance of natural barriers and suspected surface MEC hazards. All geophysical data will be acquired using man-portable land based detector systems.

• Report the findings in a RI/FS/RA report with follow-on Proposed Plan and Decision Documents, as applicable.

Finding Of Significant Effect On Environment: *(An Initial Study supporting this finding is attached.)*

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and implementing Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, title 14), the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has determined that the RI/FS/RA project will not have a significant effect on the environment as the term is defined in the Public Resources Code section 21068.

Mitigation Measures: None.

Branch Chief Signature		Date
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